

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
-----017600 310630Z /14

R 301215Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0238
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25045

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJ: CRITICISM OF JAPANESE AT JAPAN-ASEAN FORUM

1. IN A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH AN EMBOFF, A SENIOR
OFFICIAL OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, STATED THAT A JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED "JAPAN-ASEAN FORUM" WHICH HAD BEEN
HELD IN BANGKOK ON 17-18 AUGUST 1978 PROVED TO BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF
JAPAN AT THE FORUM, AND ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, THE
JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) THAT PLANS FOR FUTURE
SEMINARS IN OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS BE SCRAPPED DUE TO THE
CRITICISM LEVELED AT JAPAN DURING THE
BANGKOK MEETING.

2. THE FORUM WAS ORGANIZED OSTENSIBLY BY THE MAINICHI
NEWSPAPERS, BUT ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE OFFICIAL, IT
WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF THE MFA'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
RELATIONS, AND FUNDING FOR THE MEETINGS CAME FROM THE MFA.
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3. REPRESENTING JAPAN AT THE DISCUSSION FORUM WERE FORMER
JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA TOSHIO, DR. YANO TORU
OF KYOTO UNIVERSITY, AND GOTO NOBORU, A LEADING JAPANESE
ENTREPRENEUR.

4. ACCORDING TO THE BANGKOK POST, CRITICISM OF THE JAPANESE

AT THE FORUM WAS HARSH, AND AN AUGUST 19 POST ARTICLE
ON THE TWO-DAY MEETING WAS HEADLINED, "ASEAN TELLS OFF
THE JAPANESE." THAT ARTICLE STATED IN PART THAT "THE
ASEAN MEMBERS OF THE PANEL ARRIVED AT

THE CONCLUSION THAT JAPANESE WERE BASICALLY SELFISH,
THEIR FOREIGN POLICY LACKED ALTRUISM, AND THEY WERE
AFFLICTED WITH THE BIG POWER SYNDROME."

5. IN EMBOFF'S DISCUSSION WITH A JAPANESE OFFICIAL, WHO
ATTENDED THE FORUM, HE ASSESSED THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE
MEETINGS AS ACCURATE, AND SAID THE EXTENT AND TONE OF THE
CRITICISM OF THE JAPANESE WERE NOT EXAGGERATED.
ABRAMOWITZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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